

Remarks

Applicant requests favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1, 3, 5-20, and 22 are pending in this application, with Claims 1, 19, 20 and 22 being independent claims. Claims 4 and 21 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Claims 1, 5, 19, 20 and 22 have been amended. Support for the amendments can be found, for example, at least at page 9, lines 11-23 and page 10, lines 7-16 of the specification. Therefore, no new matter has been added.

The rejection of Claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 is moot since that claim has been cancelled without prejudice.

Claims 1 and 3-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,533,144 (Fan). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for the reasons provided below.

As recited in independent Claim 1, the present invention includes, *inter alia*, the features of inputting print information that includes at least an attribute of image, judging whether or not image data indicated by the inputted print information has a resolution equal to or higher than a predetermined resolution and the attribute represents an image, and if it is judged that the image data has a resolution equal to or higher than the predetermined resolution and the attribute represents an image, judging whether or not the image data represents a particular image. With these features, judgment of a particular image is not performed if the resolution of the input image data is below a predetermined resolution or if the attribute of the input data is text or something else other than image. Hence, even if the resolution of the input data is high, judgment is not performed if the

attribute is not image. Applicant submits that the cited art fails to disclose or suggest at least these features.

Fan discloses judging whether input image data represents a bill by comparing it with a template. That patent further discloses that a template having a resolution of either 16 dpi or 32 dpi is sufficient to use for the comparison, and that judgment is hierarchically performed from a low resolution to a high resolution to save on computation. However, Applicant submits that this disclosure of Fan relates to the resolution level of the template rather than the resolution of the input data. That patent does not disclose or suggest judging whether or not image data indicated by inputted print information has a resolution equal to or higher than a predetermined resolution. Moreover, Fan does not disclose or suggest judging whether an attribute of the inputted information represents an image. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Fan fails to disclose or suggest at least the feature of judging whether or not image data indicated by print information inputted at an input step has a resolution equal to or higher than a predetermined resolution and the attribute of the print information represents an image.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that the present invention recited in independent Claim 1 is patentable over the cited art. Independent Claims 19, 20, and 22 recite similar features and are believed patentable for reasons similar to Claim 1. The dependent claims are believed patentable for at least the same reasons as the independent claims, as well as for the additional features they recite.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the outstanding rejections, and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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